

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SOURCE:

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1. The results of the election in the United States and the general trend of events in the Far East, including the denationalization of Formosa, have created excitement in the Viet Nam Quoc Dan Dang (VNQDD). This party has traditional ties with the Kuomintang.

2. Vu Hong Khanh,¹ one of the leaders of the VNQDD, has received more considerate treatment from Premier Nguyen Van Tam during the past several months than he received during the early months of the Tam Government. Tam has agreed to provide funds for the creation of a national youth organization headed by Khanh. To date, however, Khanh has received only 200,000 piasters for this purpose. Tam's change of attitude toward Khanh is said to reflect Tam's intention of using Khanh for relations with the Chinese Nationalists.

3. On 12 January 1953 Premier Tam sent Nghiêm Ke To, another VNQDD leader, on a special secret mission to Formosa. According to VNQDD spokesmen, To was assigned to negotiate with CHANG Kai-shek concerning the appointment of a Vietnamese ambassador to Formosa and also to discuss with CHANG plans for military defense against the Chinese Communists. After returning to Vietnam to report to Tam on 11 February 1953, To arrived in Hanoi on 13 February. He has refused to discuss the results of his trip with his close associates, but gives the general impression of dissatisfaction. To's trip is given different interpretations by different factions of the VNQDD.

a. The followers of Vu Hong Khanh declare that To arranged with CHANG to have the 20,000 Chinese Nationalist troops² now interned in Vietnam placed under the command of Vu Hong Khanh for operations against the

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Chinese Communists. In this event, Khanh would collaborate with the Chinese Nationalist General LI Mi, who is in northern Burma.³

b. By contrast, the followers of Chan Quang Minh state that To's trip to Formosa was made under orders from French authorities in Vietnam. According to this version, To asked CHANG to refrain from bringing pressure on the French to release the interned Chinese Nationalist troops, on the grounds that their release would very possibly create trouble with the Chinese Communists. Minh's followers state that the French would never permit the Chinese Nationalists to operate in Vietnam.

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[Redacted] Comments.

1. Vu Hong Khanh was Secretary of State for Pacification and Defections in the first Nguyen Van Tam Cabinet.

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2. [Redacted]

3. According to [Redacted] LI Mi is now in Taipei, convalescing from a stroke.

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